



**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
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**COMMAND, CONTROL,  
COMMUNICATIONS, AND  
INTELLIGENCE**

January 7, 2000

Mr. John Weiler  
Executive Director  
Interoperability Clearinghouse  
8011 Washington Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22308

Dear Mr. Weiler:

This letter confirms OSD DCIO's sponsorship and support of the Interoperability Clearinghouse (ICH) initiative as a means of validating information technology (IT) standards, architectures, and COTS products for inclusion into defense IT programs. This endorsement is based on a review of ICH's business plans, product and sponsorship commitments.

The Interoperability Clearinghouse is a consortium initiative addressing the information needs of IT managers and developers. Accelerating product innovation, product interdependencies, and changing requirements for interoperability and security underline the need for this organization.

OSD DCIO is encouraging active participation in this collaborative industry initiative through validation and registration within the ICH knowledge repository of:

- 1) Experience reports that share knowledge of successful configurations with other programs,
- 2) Testing results that validate COTS product features, characteristics and interoperability support,
- 3) Standards profiles and architecture guidelines, and
- 4) Best practices and lessons learned concerning COTS integration and IT architectures.

Since the value of the ICH to our programs increases rapidly through results sharing, we encourage the defense community and IT industry to participate directly in this public service initiative in terms of sponsorship and lessons learned.

Marvin J. Langston  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
(Deputy CIO and Year 2000)

